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NSTC GREAT LAKES
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LETTER REGARDING POLLUTION OF PETTIBONE CREEK ON PART OF SEVERAL
FACTORIES OPERATED AT NORTH CHICAGO NSTC GREAT LAKES IL
05/22/1912
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION, GREAT LAKES,
NAVAL STATION, ILLINOIS.

May 22, 1912.

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Sirs: -

1. Ever since its establishment this Station has been subjected to great annoyance and an insanitary condition has been created by the pollution of Pettibone Creek on the part of several factories operated at North Chicago.

2. The records of this office show that my predecessor has on several occasions invited the attention of the factories in question and of the municipal officers of your city to this highly objectionable condition, and requested that proper steps be taken to abate the nuisance. After a period of seven years, however, the conditions remain as bad as ever, and, apparently, nothing has been done to afford relief.

3. This condition has now assumed a more serious form, in that it is proving destructive to Government property, a number of our boats having been ruined by the reddish discoloration of the water. It is to be noted, too, that this pollution of Pettibone Creek in turn pollutes Lake Michigan, the source of the Station's water supply, thereby defeating the object of the expensive sewage disposal plant installed here and creating a condition which is a general menace to the health of the community.

4. It is only reasonable to expect that the municipal officers, business men, and citizens of North Chicago should realize that this institution is one in which they themselves should take an interest, and that they should not permit a nuisance of this sort to be perpetuated here. It must be apparent to you that this is a very serious matter, and one which should be taken in hand without delay. I request, therefore, that you inform me as early as possible as to what action it is proposed to take in the premises, and when it is proposed to institute it.

Very truly yours,

W. F. Fuller

CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY,
Commandant.

The President and Council of
North Chicago, Illinois.